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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General proposes enlargement of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia with 10,000 additional troops to provide for 24-hour observation and search operation at crossing points on Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders.

+ Secretary-General, in an address before Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development, says that what Africa needs is practical solutions; New Agenda for Development of Africa must be focused and coordinated and must be based on people.

+ Meetings with Presidents of three ex-Yugoslav republics continue in Geneva under Secretary-General's auspices; Co-Chairmen's Spokesman reports of "fresh momentum" and "extensive groundwork" laid down for framework for political settlement.

+ Report by Secretary-General on South Africa, while recognizing responsibility of that Government for maintenance of law and order, calls on "all political leaders" to take immediate action to curb political violence.

+ Security Council Committee asks Swiss Government to take necessary measures to prevent proposed sale of 60 Pilatus PC-7 trainer aircraft to South Africa.

+ Secretary-General, at meeting in Geneva with Foreign Minister of Russian Federation, says he has been asked to send new mission to Estonia in next few weeks; discusses cooperation between United Nations and Russia Federation, among other things.

+ Iraqi Permanent Representative to United Nations says Iraq has repatriated all Kuwaitis and third country nationals present in his country through International Committee of Red Cross.

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For information media—not an official record

+ Situation in occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, deteriorates at "alarming pace" as result of increasingly repressive measures by Israel, the Occupying Power, against Palestinians there, warns Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed an enlargement of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) with 10,000 additional troops to provide for a 24-hour observation and search operation at 123 crossing points on Bosnia and Herzegovina's border with neighbouring countries.

The enlarged mandate proposed by the Secretary-General would allow the new observers to not only search but also to turn back or confiscate military personnel, weapons or sanctioned goods crossing the border in violation of the Security Council's resolutions.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 21 December, the Secretary-General says the proposal would require a significant addition to the strength and material resources of UNPROFOR. He points out that a symbolic presence at selected crossing points would "not only fail to fulfil the Council's requirements, but would also undermine the already strained crediblity of UNPROFOR".

The Secretary-General also points to the question of obtaining the troops and logistic support from United Nations Member States, saying such difficulties could result in considerable delays in deployment. He states that "it is unlikely that UNPROFOR would have an effective capability" to observe Bosnia and Herzegovna's borders before April 1993, at the earliest.

In a related development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has rejected what it calls "false" reports by the United Nations Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina of alleged attacks by Yugoslav aircraft in mid-December against certain villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina along the border with Serbia at the Drina river.

The Yugoslav Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dragomir Djokic, says the "unsubstantiated allegations" are part of a systematic propaganda campaign by Bosnia and Herzegovina to invoke foreign military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing a Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development held in Geneva yesterday, said the New Agenda for Development must be focused and coordinated and it must be based on people, with full attention to participation and human rights.

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The New Agenda, he said, must mobilize the efforts of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and frameworks and bilateral donors. "What Africa needs is practical solutions," he said.

Too many indicators of social and economic progress in Africa tell a disappointing story, the Secretary-General said. Some were inclined to write Africa off as hopeless, while others see Africa as a special case to which the principles of economics do not apply. "It is our approach that has failed, Africa has not", he said.

The Secretary-General went on to say there were three issues which needed to be tackled afresh if the economic development of Africa were to proceed. They were external debt, regional and subregional integration, and diversification of the economy. When African Governments become tagged as bad debtors or bad prospects, he said, private investment goes elsewhere. Long-term financial flows into sub-Saharan Africa declined from $10 billion to $4.7 billion between 1982 and 1990.

The debt burden was a major obstacle to the return of private investment to Africa and easing that burden must be a priority for the international community. Reform of the African State was a prerequisite of reform of the African economy.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali held meetings in Geneva over the weekend with the two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, and with the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Dobrica Cosic, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to Fred Eckhardt, the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, the talks, which are scheduled to continue on 2 January, aim at finding a negotiated political solution for all of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The free movement of citizens from beseiged towns and cities, and the free movement of humanitarian aid is also being discussed.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, he said the overall level of fighting had decreased in recent days and relief supplies were again getting through by air and by land. "Extensive groundwork" had been laid down and a framework for a settlement had been established by the Co-Chairmen. There was "a fresh momentum to the Geneva talks", he said, and January would be a telling month for the efforts of the Co-Chairmen.

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In a new report to the Security Council on the question of South Africa, dated 22 December, the Secretary-General has said that while it is recognized that the Government of South Africa has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, all political leaders must take immediate action

to curb political violence. "Lack of political freedom in the homelands continues to be a source of tension and violence", he said.

The report went on to state that the international observer teams sent to South Africa had been welcomed by all concerned and some had contended that the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) ought to be strengthened and its mandate expanded. By all accounts, it said, the international observers had performed well in adapting their operations to meet the needs on the ground and have had a salutary effect on the political situation in general. Given the delicate situation now prevailing in South Africa, characterized by unacceptable rising levels of violence, the Secretary-General recommended in his report to modestly reinforce UNOMSA with an increment of 10 additional observers.

The report stated that while progress had been made in enhancing and reinforcing the structures established under the National Peace Accord, much remained to be done particularly with regard to the National Peace Committee and the National Peace Secretariat. The Government of South Africa should ensure that adequate resources were made available to facilitate the operations of the National Peace Committee and the National Peace Secretariat at all levels.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, R.F. Botha, in a statement dated 18 December, said his Government welcomed the commitment by all signatories of the National Peace Accord to the process of peaceful change in South Africa by fully and effectively implementing its provisions and by cooperating with each other to that end.

He said the omnibus resolution on South Africa, adopted by the General Assembly last week, contained a few references to outdated practices. However, the resolution acknowledged that apartheid is gone and that a new era awaited South Africa. He urged all parties to play a constructive role in bringing about peace, stability and progress.
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The Chairman of the Security Council Committee today decided to request the Swiss Government to take necessary measures to prevent the proposed sale of some 60 Pilatus PC-7 trainer aircraft to South Africa. The Committee took the view that the sale of the aircraft would be contrary to the spirit and intent of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) establishing a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

The Committee also noted that in resolution 591 (1986) the Security Council had urged "all States to prohibit the export to South Africa of items which they have reason to believe are destined for military and/or police forces in South Africa; have military capacity and are intended for military purposes."

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The Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations, in his letter dated 27 May and 22 September, 1992, described his Government's position that the Pilatus PC-7 aircraft does not fall within the purview of the Swiss Federal Law of 30 June 1972.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, at a meeting in Geneva over the weekend with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrei Kozyrev, discussed a number of issues ranging from cooperation between the United Nations and the Russian Federation to the situation in Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and the former Yugoslavia.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General told the press that upon the request of the Russian Federation, the United Nations would send another mission to Estonia in the next few weeks. A mission had already been sent to Georgia, he said, and he was sending a mission to Tajikistan and two fact-finding missions to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Commenting on the situation in former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General said that despite all the difficulties, the United Nations has been able to provide the humanitarian assistance and maintain a cease-fire in that region.

"I know that the international public opinion is frustrated and wants to see quick results. The fact is that the process which is there is important. Let us give a chance to this process to be able to reach a solution," he urged.

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Nizar Hamdoon, the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has told the Secretary-General in a letter, dated 22 December, that Iraq has repatriated all Kuwaitis and third country nationals present in its territory through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Furthermore, he said, Iraq has expressed its readiness, on many occasions and in numerous international fora, to cooperate in the search for and identification of the missing persons.

The issue of Kuwaiti missing persons, Mr. Hamdoon states, was intended to serve as a means of political blackmail by Kuwait for the purpose of prolonging the unjust embargo against Iraq. Citing a report on the subject by a committee of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, the Iraqi Ambassador claims that some of the names of missing Kuwaiti nationals submitted by the Kuwaiti authorities to Iraq through the ICRC, "are currently being held in Kuwaiti prisons or were killed during the military operations in the Gulf war". S/25012

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The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate at a very alarming pace as a result of increasingly repressive measures by Israel, the Occupying Power, against the Palestinian

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people there, according to Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. Al-Kidwa said that this has been occurring parallel to Israel's mass deportation of Palestinian civilians on 17 December. The Gaza strip, in particular, he said, had been under siege and devastated by a succession of violent acts committed by the Israeli military, resulting in severe shortages of foodstuffs, water and essential medicines, he stated.

The letter urged the international community to meet its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and called upon the United Nations to provide immediate protection for the Palestinians living under occupation.
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